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City Police, Fire Dept. Seriously Short on Manpower, City Council Warned

Pay Hike Study Is Ordered

Charges that Torrance provides less police and fire protection than nearly all other cities of its size were hurled at the City Council Tuesday night when city employees jammed the chamber to seek salary increases and fringe benefits.

"Something is unbalanced here. As under-manned as we are, we are entitled to a little more in fringe benefits," Albert Salcido, spokesman for the police and firemen, declared.

He got into an angry hassle with councilmen when he charged that police are so understaffed that they were unable to take vandalism report in North Torrance last Friday because the officer had to answer a beach riot call.

Refutes Claim

Salcido was angrily refuted by officials when he said that only one car was on duty in the entire city.

A few minutes later he charged that employees were not permitted to present their demands to the Council when it held a budget session June 16.

Mayor Albert Isen was greeted with loud "boos" when he ordered Salcido to get rid of his chewing gum during the argument.

The City Council finally ordered City Manager George Stevens to study the cost of paying longevity pay to veteran employees, and compare the cost with salary hikes for all employees.

Immediate Raise

Councilman Willy Blount voted against the study, which could lead to wage benefits in August, and said the city should grant longevity pay immediately.

The City Council finally adopted the tentative budget, which provides for the spending of \$3,960,000, approximately \$24,000 less than proposed by Stevens. It will call for a reduction of the tax rate by one cent to \$1.22 per \$100 of assessed value.

In his argument that the city's departments are under-manned, Salcido said a survey disclosed that Torrance had only one policeman for approximately 1300 persons, and one fireman for each 1230. He praised the chiefs for the job they were doing in providing protection with the small forces they have.

Double Manpower

He claimed that most comparable cities in the county have approximately twice as much manpower.

Jonathan Dunmyer, spokesman for the miscellaneous employees, said that the city could find money for pay boosts if it were more efficient in collecting delinquent rubbish bills.

"Don't lose sight of the fact that we're undermanned. It's unfair to turn us down," he said.

The employees he represents are seeking a 5 per cent pay boost, while police and firemen have asked for a 6 per cent increase.

The new budget provides for the addition of six policemen and five firemen.

Burglars Loot Auto Dealership, Doctors Offices

Several hundred dollars' worth of tools, tires and wheels were stolen from Paul's Chevrolet Agency, 1640 Cabrillo ave., Tuesday.

Police said the thieves stripped the wheels and tires off 12 new cars and also stole tools after snipping their way through a wire fence.

A haul of narcotics was stolen from the safe of the office of Dr. William E. Grubbs, 2211 Torrance blvd. The burglars also took \$25 in cash, and entered the adjoining office of Dr. H. A. Wood, 2207 Torrance blvd., where nothing apparently was taken.

Falls Into Manhole

Austin Pickett, of 3619 Emerald st. slipped into a manhole at Amie ave. and Garnett st., he informed police Monday.

Building Ban Clamped on Torrance Beach Slide Area

Tragedy Averted in Slide

All building on the steep cliffs overhanging Torrance Beach will be halted as result of an earth slide Sunday night which narrowly missed tragic proportions.

Only shortly before tons of rock, clay and sand cascaded down the 200-foot embankment, parties of beach-goers were observed around fires in the area.

Building Superintendent Lee Schlenz announced that Don-Ja-Ran Corp. owners of the bluff lots along Paseo de la Playa, have agreed to fence off the danger area. The owners will also presumably level off the cliffs into a flatter slope before they start building the apartment houses and hotel over which they battled with the city for over a year.

Schlenz said that the developers have already obtained a geologist's report which recommends that they level the bluff one foot high for one foot level before asking for building permits.

The slippage occurred shortly after midnight Monday morning when tons of the cliff rolled into the ocean.

A search for possible victims was started immediately by police and firemen. They concluded that no one had been under the cliff at the time it began to slip, since no cars were found parked in the vicinity nor was there evidence of people in the path of the slide.

Planning Director George Powell said that earth movement at that location has been going on for years. He said that numerous Indian relics had been found around the cliffs.

Deputy sheriffs assisted Torrance police in patrolling the area and keeping spectators away. As of Tuesday morning, off-duty personnel, paid by the property owners were guarding the area, Police Chief Percy Bennett said.

The street department was erecting warning signs below the cliff.

The slide area is located at Via El Toro and is approximately a block wide.

Architects Ordered To Draw Plans for Harbor General

Preliminary plans for expansion of Harbor General Hospital were ordered prepared by the Board of Supervisors yesterday after they approved schematic drawings for the long-delayed project.

Last week Supervisor Kenneth Hahn asked for a probe into the delay of construction. He cited that 19 months have elapsed since the voters approved a \$15,400,000 bond issue to finance the project.

Some county officials said that actual construction on permanent buildings to house patients will not begin for another two years.

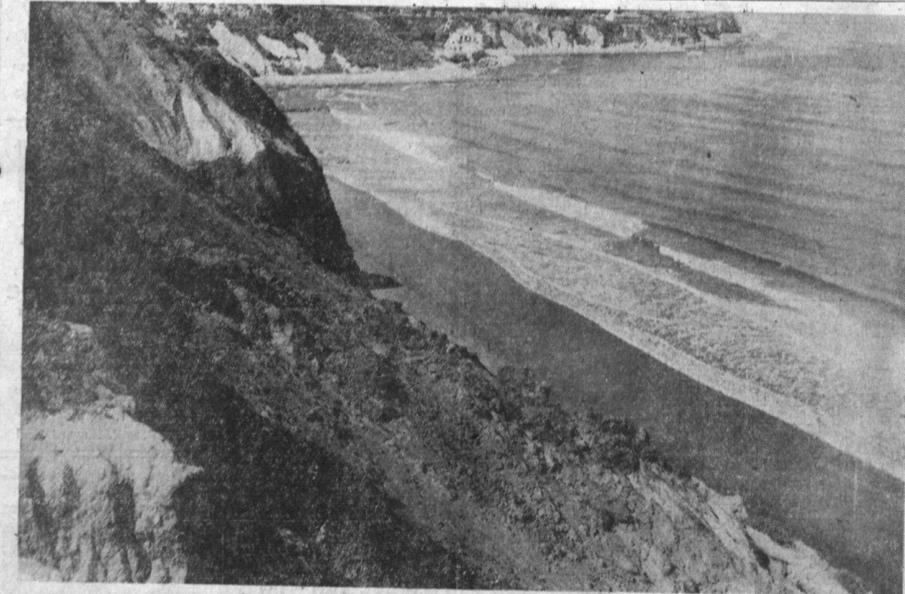
Patients are now housed in temporary Army barracks buildings.

Alfred Thomas, hospital administrator, said that no plans had been prepared before the bond issue was submitted in November, 1956. Later plans were rejected because the number of beds had been cut from 700 to 600 because of increased construction cost.

Judges Transferred

Judge John A. Shidler, who has served in the Torrance branch of South Bay Municipal Court for the past six months, will change places with Judge Donald Armstrong next week.

Judge Armstrong will sit in the Torrance court for the next six months on an alternating basis, the three judges agreed to.



SLIPPAGE—A large section of the 200-foot bluff south of the Torrance Beach lifeguard station broke off and spilled into the ocean Sunday night. Center of photo shows area which slipped

down the steep embankment. The towering cliff area was to be the site of a hotel and apartment development.



GUARD DUTY—Policeman Jim Kirby uses hands to frame a crack evident on a portion of the cliff directly south of slide area, which is expected to break off. Police and sheriff's deputies are patrolling danger area until fences are erected by property owners.

Council, Merchants Clash Over Parking Fine Funds

Money collected from parking meter fines will continue to go into the general fund and not to be used for off-street parking acquisitions.

The City Council Tuesday refused to go along with a request by Del Nadeau, president of the Torrance Retail Merchants Association, that the fines be added to the money collected from meters, and all of it go for land purchases.

He claimed that if the fines go into the general police fund, then the money should also be used to pay for the parking meter officers, who are now paid out of money collected from the meters.

"You finagled out of an assessment district, now you want the fines," Councilman Victor Benstead told Nadeau. "We're not cheating the merchants, if anything, we cheat the people who put the nickels in."

Nadeau said that the meter officers spend at least a third of their time doing other jobs than patrolling meters, and that

the parking fund should not be charged for all their time.

He said that the fund is now just breaking even, and it will be impossible to buy any more off-street lots.

His request was defeated 5 to 2, with only Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman Nickolas O. Draie voting with the merchants' suggestion.

Son Saves Parents From Jail

Their 12-year-old son who wasn't even in court, Tuesday probably saved a Torrance couple from lengthy jail sentences for battery and contempt of court.

Judge John A. Shidler granted a 60-day suspended sentence to Arthur Leroy Starkey, 51, of 1211 El Prado, on a battery charge filed by his wife Sunday. The wife, Mrs. Betty Jo Starkey, 37, who sported a puffy black eye, was also given a suspended sentence.

She was arrested on a drunk charge Monday, when she showed up in court to ask that the complaint against her husband be dismissed.

In granting them suspended sentences, Judge Shidler told the Starkeys he did it so that they could properly take care of their son, and ordered them to stop each other from drinking.

Mrs. Starkey called police Sunday evening, after she said her husband, a carpenter, had struck her, choked her and tore her clothes. She said her husband became irate after she left the apartment to return a cooking pan to a neighbor.

Bartlett Given Testimonial Fete

Nearly 200 persons feted City Clerk A. H. Bartlett Sunday at a testimonial dinner in the Moose Hall.

Councilman Nickolas O. Draie served as master of ceremonies to pay tribute to the 36-year service performed by the veteran city official. Bartlett was elected to his 10th consecutive term last April.

Youth Assaulted

A Torrance youth was socked in the eye by two men after he refused to engage in a drag race in Lawndale Monday.

Morris Wayne Gregory, 17, of 320 Calle Mayor, told deputies at the Lennox Sheriff's Station that the suspects forced him over to the curb at Hawthorne blvd. and Rosecrans ave., where they struck him and smashed his sunglasses.

HOSPITAL EMPLOYE PARTY

Riviera Hospital will hold its first annual employees party at the Moose Lodge Hall in Redondo Beach, June 27. Jack Savlin, Riviera Hospital director, announced that the festivities will begin at 9 p.m. and will continue until 2 a.m. Jack Darling and his orchestra will furnish the dance music.

Cost of Living Shows Tiny Dip

Cost of living in the Torrance area showed an infinitesimal dip during May.

In case this didn't reflect on your bank balance, the U.S. Labor Department announced that costs were down by three-tenths of one per cent, from April, chiefly because of lower food prices.

Even if the decrease was hardly noticeable, it was the first time in two years that prices were down. The Los Angeles area index at 123.2 is still higher than the national average of 123.6.

Woman Hurt by Prankster Trick

A Torrance woman became the victim of a sabotage trick used in World War II.

Mrs. John M. King, of 17717 Faiba ave., was flung against the dashboard of the car driven by her husband when he suddenly jammed on the brakes to stop for a cord strung across Ward st. by pranksters.

King told police he thought the line was a wire, and he stopped the car in order to avoid smashing into it.



BARBARA KRAUSZER

Barbara Krauszer, THS Student, Dies

Barbara Krauszer, 16, popular Torrance High School student, died yesterday morning after a lengthy illness.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Krauszer of 2318 Sonoma ave., had been ill for several months.

He died at Riviera Hospital early yesterday.

Born in Hoboken, N. J., she had been a Torrance resident for 10 years and attended local schools.

Key Real Estate Buys Featured in Torrance Press

This week has been proclaimed "Buy A Home First Week" in Torrance in cooperation with the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors.

The sponsors point out the advantages of purchasing a home at this time, and stress real estate bargains offered by brokers.

Key Buys in this area will be featured in today's classified real estate section of the Torrance Press.